

A PIECE OF U.S. EQUESTRIAN OLYMPIC HISTORY

AN OLYMPIC FLAG IS ALREADY SIGNIFICANT,
BUT AN OLYMPIC FLAG WITH MORE THAN 65 SIGNATURES...

that is a piece of history.



Dan Reed

Discovered in 2015 by esteemed FEI groom Karen Golding, who saved it from being thrown away, Karen repurposed it as a shade on her golf cart for her dog. FEI steward Dan Reed noticed the unique shade and offered to make a new shade in exchange for the Olympic flag. Almost ten years later, the flag now features the signatures of the Olympic Show Jumping athletes going back to 1948 through the 2024 Paris Olympic silver medal-winning team. Dan Reed tells the story.

HOW IT ALL STARTED

"I had it for about a year or two before deciding what to do with the flag. I thought it would be fun to take to a show and see how many Olympians I could get to sign it. I saw Bezie Madden the next day, and hers was the first autograph. I never thought it would go this far—originally hoping for maybe a dozen signatures of past Olympic riders.

It took a few years before I thought about getting signatures from family members of riders who had passed away. That was probably the hardest part; it was tough to find

anyone still around, and some families were no longer involved in horses. Lots of internet searching was involved to track down the families. I learned so much about the athletes and their impact on the industry, far beyond the Olympics. I found it interesting that the early Olympic Show Jumping was mostly military competing.

It surprised me how much the flag signatures got going and how many people got involved. When Robert Ridland, the chef d'equipe for the U.S. team, signed it, he thought it was such a cool piece of history. In 2021, McLain Ward signed for the 2020 Tokyo Games and then McLain proceeded to sign again for 2024. Robert and I said he had to make the team for 2024. Luckily, he made the team, helping secure the Silver Medal. McLain now has the most autographs on the flag."

IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

"The coolest thing I found through the years is the history and the people I have met and how important they are to the history of our sport. Once, I was in Southern Pines to get a signature and could only meet at 10 p.m. I met the son who signed for his father, Arthur McCashin, who rode in the 1952 Olympic games. He brought out his father's Bronze Medal from the Helsinki Olympics. That was amazing."

This Olympic flag embodies a rich history that transcends generations, celebrating past achievements while inspiring future equestrians.

After discussion with Marty Bauman, Executive Director of the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, the flag will be on loan to SJHOF and the Wheeler Museum, in Lexington, Ky.

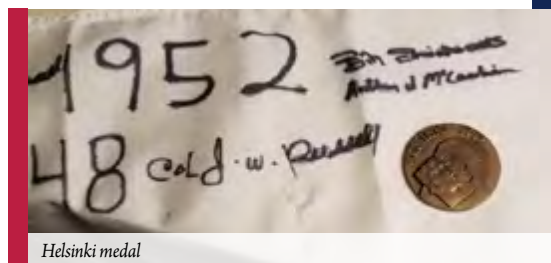
The WIHS has an exclusive opportunity this year to display the signed Olympic flag in several locations throughout the week, including the VIP, Exhibitor Lounge, and concourse. - QUINN REED, WIHS

ABOUT DAN REED AND KAREN GOLDING:

Since 1983, Dan Reed has been involved in show jumping as a groom, manager, jump crew, and now a full-time FEI Steward. He has officiated at four Olympic Games to date making this flag even more special. Karen Golding, a well-loved fixture in show jumping, was a mentor to Dan and many other grooms and stewards. Last year, WIHS created a special Leading FEI Groom Award in her memory. Dan will be officiating at WIHS this year.



The 2024 U.S. Silver Medal show jumping team members, McLain Ward, Laura Kraut, Kent Farrington and Karl Cook, carry on the tradition by signing the flag.



Helsinki medal